



Patent Docket No. 871P4

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Isolated *mpl* ligand, isolated DNA encoding *mpl* ligand, and recombinant or synthetic methods of preparing *mpl* ligand are disclosed. These *mpl* ligands are shown to influence the replication, differentiation or maturation of blood cells, especially megakaryocytes and megakaryocyte progenitor cells. Accordingly, these compounds may be used for treatment of thrombocytopenia.

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